

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

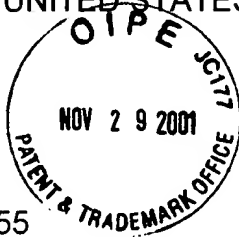
In re Application of:

ITOH et al.

Serial No. 09/735,555

Filed: December 14, 2000

For: OUTPUT BUFFER CIRCUIT AND CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR



Group Art Unit: 2819

Examiner: D. Chang

Docket No.: 108075-00022

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 29, 2001

Sir:

The Office Action dated November 1, 2001 has been received and carefully noted.

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In the Office Action, prosecution of the above-identified application was restricted to one of the following two inventions:

Group I: FIGS. 5, 8, and 9 -- claims 1-11;

Group II: FIGS. 10 and 13 -- claims 12-18.

Applicants respectfully elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, depicted in FIGS. 5, 8, and 9, and recited in claims 1-11, without traverse. Applicants therefore respectfully request timely consideration on the merits.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected claims at any point prior to the termination of the proceedings in the subject application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Tollefson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian A. Tollefson
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